ACT IX : KARAKURI *
THE PRINCESS OF THE AUTOMATONS
"THE PRINCESS OF THE AUTOMATONS"

NN... NN...

WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!

GUY, LUCILLE, I'LL NEVER LEAVE WITHOUT YOU.

CHHH... PCHH...

GOOD! YOU'RE STILL HERE.

AH!

GOOHH

1

HA HA! I BURNT HIM!

GOOHH

WHERE'S NARUMI?

AP'TCHA ...

PCHH...

HE DARED RUIN MY PLAN!

HE DESERVED IT!

CRAC

CLAC

GOOHH

BARON, SHE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOU IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE HER OWN PURPOSES!

GOOHH

AP'TCHA, WHY?!

WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME?

TAN

BAINES ...

I'M OUTTA HERE! YOU CAN KEEP YOUR MONEY!

IT'S NOT WORTH DYING!

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN YOU, AP'TCHA ...

NO... NO!

PCHH...

CHHH...

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN OBEDIENT GIRL, NEVER INQUIRING ABOUT ANYTHING.

I WATCHED YOU FOR OVER TEN YEARS IN ORDER TO BECOME A PERFECT COPYCAT.

HUH?!

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ...

ELISE.

DON'T YOU THINK I CAN TAKE YOUR PLACE?

I MAY BE AN AUTOMATON, BUT I AM FAR BETTER SUITED TO PLAY THIS ROLE!

YOU'RE JUST A MANNEQUIN ON SHOW IN A WINDOW!

WHO WOULD BOTHER IF I TOOK YOUR PLACE?

GOOD

AS A PRINCESS, YOU'RE NOT WORTH A MERE MANNEQUIN!!

OOH

HAS BECOME REALITY!

TO FINALLY DISAP-PEAR...

IN WHICH I SLOWLY AM CONSUMED!...

THE NIGHTMARE ...

GRRAH

AND I'LL TELL MISTRESS FRANCINE WHAT I SEE AND HOW MUCH I HAVE CHANGED WHEN I LIVE AS A PRINCESS!

UNTIL NOW, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING, BUT SOON...

IT'S NOT OVER YET! I'M GONNA KILL YOU AND THEN TAKE YOUR PLACE!

YES! THAT'S IT!

GHH

GHH

I WAS ALWAYS COMPLAINING, THINKING I HAD NO LIBERTY.

SADNESS ...

...

ANGER...

FEAR OF DEATH...

JOY AND HATRED ...

BUT THANKS TO YOU, I COULD EXPERIENCE A LOT OF FEELINGS.

I WAS JUST A MEDICINE FOR MY UNCLE GÜNTHER.

AND FOR YOU, A MANNEQUIN TO REPLACE.

THAT THERE'RE AS MANY POINTS OF VIEW AS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

AND THEN I LEARNT...

SEVERAL DAYS AGO, SOMEONE TOLD ME...

THAT I AM THE CUTEST...

...SHORT-HAIRED ANNOYING WOMAN.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAVE YOU GONE INSANE?

AN "ANNOYING WOMAN".

HOW LOVELY!

I AM ELISE, A HUMAN BEING.

AND I WON'T BE A MANNE-QUIN ANY LONGER.

I'M STARTING TO SEE THE BLUE SKY BEYOND THE DARK CLOUDS.

I'VE CHANGED A LOT SINCE I'VE MET NEW PEOPLE AND LIVED NEW EXPERIENCES.

BUT YOU, AP'TCHA, YOU'RE JUST AN AUTO-MATON.

WILL YOU EVER BE ABLE TO CHANGE?!

OHH

TIC

EVEN IF I DIE...

I'M GONNA KILL YOU IN A FEW SECONDS!

HA HA HA!! WHAT'S THE POINT?

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

AP'TCHA ...

FEELING ALIVE.

I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO DIE...

I WON'T LEAVE THIS WORLD AS A MANNE-QUIN.

GHH-GHH

AT FIRST, I WAS AFRAID OF YOU, BUT I CHANGED MY MIND DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS...

NOBODY WAS AS DEVOTED AS YOU...

SHUT UP!

TELL ME YOU DIDN'T BETRAY ME!

GET LOST, HUMAN !!

I DON'T NEED THE AQUA VITAE ANYMORE, JUST YOU!

YOU'RE MY TRUE DAUGHTER ...

LET'S STOP THIS AND RUN AWAY TOGETHER ...

AP'TCHA...

WHAT ?!

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPLACE A HUMAN BEING...

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WERE JUST BAIT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MY PROJECT?!

IN THE END, AFTER LIVING WITH YOU FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, BARON GÜNTHER LOVES YOU.

BUT YOU, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

BUT ...

EVEN I HAVE CHANGED BECAUSE I'M HUMAN.

A HUMAN BEING CAN CHANGE INFINITELY ACCORDING TO HER EXPERIENCES.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

ANYTHING ABOUT ME!!

BECAUSE A PUPPET WILL NEVER CHANGE.

YOU CAN'T...

GRR...

GRR

CRACK

AND I WON'T LET AN AUTOMATON TAKE MY PLACE!!

ANYWAY, THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE...

I'M THE PRINCESS OF LOWEN-STEIN!!

DIE! FOOLISH PRINCESS!

NARUMI, THANK YOU...

FOR TEACHING ME HOW TO PUNCH.

AND TURN MY BODY 45 DEGREES ON THIS SIDE...

I RAISE MY HAND... SLIGHTLY LOWER IT...

KEEP YOUR BODY STRAIGHT, ALIGNED WITH YOUR SHOULDERS.

I SAY GOODBYE...

...TO YOU!

STRENUOUSLY TURN MY HIP AND SHOULDER AND THEN...

DON!

GYAAHHH!! SHIROGA-NEEEE!!

NA...
NARUMI
?!

AH...

SAH...

SCRAMBLING!!

HAS SMASHED MY NIGHT-MARE...

INTO PIECES!!

NARUMI...

MISTRESS FRANCINE...

I WAS USELESS IN THE END!!

I WAS SO CLOSE !!

PCHHA

AAAH !!

WE'LL LEAVE TOGETHER.

IT'S GONNA BE OKAY, AP'TCHA.

MISTRESS FRANCINE...

WILL THE AUTOMATONS EVER BE ABLE TO CHANGE?

OOH

YES

...

AP'TCHA

MISTER GÜNTHER.

GOOHH

YES.

LET'S GO BACK HOME.

IAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!

I LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS AFTER HEARING THE SHRIEKS OF THE BARON.

I NEVER HAD...

A NIGHTMARE AGAIN...

I HAD THE FEELING THAT TOUGH ARMS WERE HOLDING ME, BUT I COULDN'T OPEN MY EYES.

BLACKOUT